

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY)	ORDER APPROVING
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY FOR)	EXTENSION OF TEST
EXTENSION OF TEST PERIOD)	PERIOD
)	NG98-007

On August 25, 1998, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a Petition for Extension of Test Period from MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) as it relates to its natural gas service in South Dakota. ARSD 20:10:13:44 requires the use of a test period consisting of 12 months of actual experience ending no earlier than 6 months before the date of filing unless good cause for extension is shown. MidAmerican is contemplating filing a natural gas rate case in November, 1998, and has petitioned the Commission to authorize the use of a calendar year 1997 test period as a basis for establishing its natural gas cost of service.

At its regularly scheduled September 10, 1998, meeting, the Commission considered MidAmerican's Petition. MidAmerican presented its arguments in favor of granting the Petition to the Commission. Staff recommended denial of the Petition. The Commission found that good cause exists for extension of the test period, as requested, for a natural gas rate case filing made by MidAmerican by December 1, 1998. The Commission, with Commissioner Nelson dissenting, voted to grant the Petition.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A and ARSD 20:10:13:44. It is hereby

ORDERED that MidAmerican is granted a waiver of ARSD 20:10:13:47 and shall be allowed to use a 1997 test year for its natural gas rate case provided the filing is made by December 1, 1998.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 21st day of September, 1998.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.
By: _____
Date: _____
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

PAM NELSON, Commissioner, dissenting

LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner